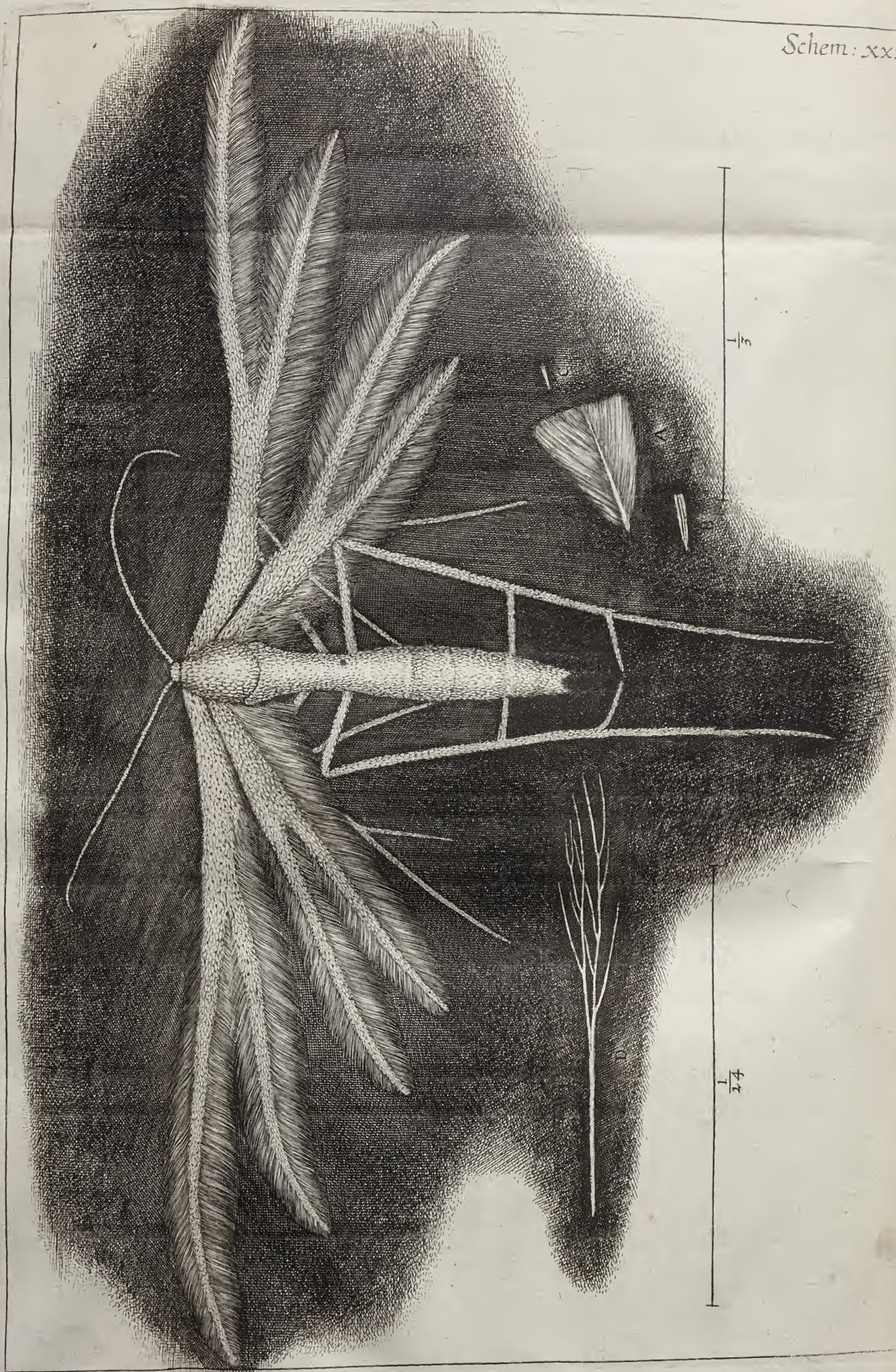


Schem: xxx



MICROGRAPHIA

or skins, such as the Wings of Dragon-flies; in others, those skins are over-grown, or pretty thick bestuck, with short bristles, as in Flesh-flies; in others, those films are covered, both on the upper and under, with small Feathers, plac'd almost like the tiles on a House, and curiously rang'd and adorn'd with most lively colours, as is servable in Butter-flies, and several kinds of Moths; In others, instead of their films, Nature has provided nothing, but a matter of half, a stalks (if I well remember the number; for I have not lately met with of these flies, and did not, when I first observ'd them, take sufficient notice of divers particulars) and each of these stalks, with a few single bristles on each side, resembling much the branched back-bone of a Heron or the like Fish, or a thin hair'd Peacocks feather, the top or the being broken off. With a few of these on either side (which it was able to shut up or expand at pleasure, much like a Fann, or rather like the structure of the feathers in a wing, which ly. all one under another, when shut, and by the side of each other, when expanded) this pretty little grey Moth (for such was the creature I observ'd, thus wing'd) could fly nimbly, and as it seem'd very easily move its *corpuscle*, through the Air, from place to place. Other Insects have their wings cas'd, or cover'd over, with certain hollow shells, shap'd almost like those hollow Trays in which Butchers carry meat, whose hollow sides being turn'd downwards, do not only secure their folded wings from injury of the earth, in which most of those creatures reside, but whilst they fly, serves for help to sustain and bear them up. And these are observable in *scarabaei* and a multitude of other terrestrial *crustaceous* Insects; in which we may yet further observe a particular providence of Nature.

Now in all these kinds of wings, we observe this particular, as a most worthy remark; that where ever a wing consists of discontinuous parts, the Pores or *interstitia* between those parts are very seldom, either much bigger, or much smaller, then these which we here find between the particles of these brushes, so that it should seem to intimate, that the particles of the Air are such, that they will not easily or readily, if at all, pass through these Pores, so that they seem to be strainers fine enough to hinder the particles of the Air (whether hinder'd by their bulk, or by their *agitation, circulation, rotation* or *undulation*), I shall not here determine from getting through them, and by that means, serve the Animal as well as not better, then if they were little films. I say, if not better, because I have observ'd that all those creatures, that have film'd wings, move not so abundantly quicker and more strongly, such as all kind of Flies and *rabees* and Batts, then such as have their wings covered with feather, as Butter-flies and Birds, or twigs, as Moths, which have each of the much slower motion of their wings; That little ruggedness perhaps their wings helping them somewhat, by taking better hold of the particles of the Air, or not suffering them so easily to pass by, any other way then.

But what ever be the reason of it, 'tis most evident, that the most wing'd Insects have the strongest Muscles or movent parts of their wings, and the other much weaker; and this very Insect, we are now describing